GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4333
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2001
DROUGHT PRONE AREA PROGRAMME
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether after implementation of Drought Prone Area Programme for almost two decades and spending nearly Rs. 2000 crorethe drought conditions and ecological conditions have not improved whereas the drought prone area has increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to relief the farmers and reduce the drought prone areas;

(c) whether any external assistance has been taken on this behalf;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) and (b) The increase in drought prone area for coverage under Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is on account of inclusion of additional areas under the Programme consequent upon the recommendation of a High Level Technical Committee headed by Prof. Hanumantha Rao.The Committee had also recommended deletion of certain areas from coverage under DPAP, but the deletion of these areas was not agreed to. Consequently the identified area under DPAP increased from 5.53 lakh Sq. Kms to 7.46 Lakh Sq. Kms.

Upto 1994-1995, an area of 57.14 lakh hectare was treated. The Programme is being implemented on Watershed basis under the Guidelines for Watershed Development w.e.f. 1.4.1995. Since then, 13781 watershed projects covering an area of 68.90 lakh hectares have been sanctioned so far. Since the total identified drought prone area is 7.46 lakh sq. Kms. .i.e. 746 lakh hectares, the large scale impact of the aforesaid projects is not visible. However the conditions in the project areas are definitely improving.

(c), (d) and (e) Following projects are under implementation with the assistance of different Foreign Donor Agencies, which are covering areas under DPAP. The details are as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of the Donor Agency	Name of the Project	Outlay
1.	Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA)	Tree Growers Cooperative Project (TGCP) in Rajasthan, Orissa & Madhya Pradesh	24.47 Crores
2.	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	Tree Growers Cooperative Project (TGCP) in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat & Karnataka	45.99 Crores
3.	European Economic Commission (EEC-EC)	Community Management of Natural Resources EC -Grant in Gujarat	ECU 15.85 Million

4.	Department for International Development (DFID),UK	Rural Livelihoods Projects in the States of Andhra Pradesh & Orissa	782.93 Lakh Pounds